President's Annual Report: Sep 2025-Sep 2026.

Our events calendar has been quite full this past year. We have held two Beginner's classes and an Intermediate one, resulting in some new members. There have been bus trips to Museums of History Kingswood [State Archives] and train trips to State Library of NSW and the War Memorial. Many of us enjoyed a lovely social outing on the Hawkesbury Riverboat Postman and a fun-filled Christmas luncheon at Wyong RSL. We also celebrated 20 years of residing at the Cottage with an excellent slide show. We held our Volunteer Thank you morning tea offsite at Alison Homestead as the cottage was closed for renovation. We had a very informative talk by their President and a detailed tour as well as a tasty morning tea.

There have been a number of fund-raising events- including the very successful Bunnings BBQs, the Rotary Raffle, and sales at Toukley 50+ Spring Fair and Henry Kendal Cottage Fair. We ran a very successful Seminar in October, subsidised by a grant from the Mounties Group. They also subsidised our Christmas luncheon by covering the cost of the room hire. Creighton's Palmdale supported us by providing $600 to be spent on gift cards. These were then used as raffle prizes for our monthly meetings, the seminar and our Family History Fair. They have generously supplied this amount again for the current year. A new laptop was purchased for the use of the newsletter editor, and we installed a garden shed on the verandah to house extra furniture. Past President Doug THOMAS donated a large collection of microfiche and books. We were the lucky recipient of excess library furniture when the existing Gosford Library closed. Our 'new' Library cabinets look wonderful and the trolleys and footstools have proved to be very useful.

We have experienced theft, vandalism and anti-social behaviour from some of the rough sleepers. We decided to replace some of the stolen items [our Bunnings eskies] and did not claim on our insurance due to the amount of excess. Central Coast Council managed to complete some much-needed internal repairs on our cottage in April/May this year. There is still work to do on the outside, including some attention to the cracks in the garden retaining wall.

In August of last year, we acknowledged Family History Month by hosting an Open Day at the Cottage. This was very successful. This year, we expanded the idea to become a Family History Fair and chose the Memorial Hall at Toukley for our venue. This was hugely successful. Central Coast Council has subsidised our costs with a Community Partnership Grant. We also launched our latest publication: our updated Pioneer Register.

We have been kept well informed via our weekly newsletter and our quarterly journal, the Tree of Life, as well as hosting our monthly Zoom sessions and our general meetings with guest speakers.

Lastly, we have recognised many members for their length of membership, and the work they do to keep our cottage running. Two new life members were also created- Regina HOGAN and Helen JOHNSTON-LORD and gave long standing member Denis DEAN Honorary membership for his services to our group.

I would like to thank my fellow members of the Management Committee for all that they do, and for our enthusiastic members who volunteer to do many of the tasks necessary to keep our Group going.

Lynda Smith. LM 2.